



**Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2017**

Mission: The Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition is committed to improving our community's response to domestic violence issues through communication and coordination of services.

Attending: Pam Gladish (Bloomington Police Department), Debra Morrow (Middle Way House), Kendra Lanier (Connect 211), Morgan Wells (Office of the Mayor), April Wilson (Office of the Prosecutor), Sharon Groeger (Middle Way House), Ro Osborne (Victims Assistance), Michelle Gregory (Attorney), Naomi Long (Middle Way House), Victoria Barnhill (POAP), Alison Bishay (POAP), Sophie Bird (IU Student), Gillian Fulford (IU Student), Paulina Cuerreio (REC), Clarence Boone (IU/WFHB- Bring It On)

City Staff: Michael Shermis

I. Introductions

A. Brief introductions were provided.

II. Strangulation Presentation by Barbara Bachmeier

A. Definitions

1. Legal and Medical > see presentation slides for text
2. Strangulation: External force is applied to the neck that results in a depressed or complete loss of consciousness
3. Asphyxia: Function cells in the body, particularly the brain, are deprived of oxygen
4. External force: hands (manual), ligature (cord-like) or gravity (hanging)
 - a) Manual force is most common
 - b) Estimation of force is generally not possible to calculate

B. Injuries

1. Fractured hyoid bone
 - a) Not very common in strangulation, but more common in
2. Thyroid cartilage
 - a) Possible to fracture
3. Tracheal rings
 - a) Commonly fractured
4. Obstruction of vessels

- a) Interruption of oxygenation causing cell death
- 5. Timeline
 - a) 20-30 seconds causes petechiae above the point of constriction
 - b) 2 minutes to full consciousness
 - c) 2 minutes or more causes cell death
 - (1) Suffocation will accelerate the process of cell death
 - (2) If there is intermittent strangulation, they damage will be slowed

C. Signs and Symptoms

1. Signs are physically seen and symptoms are reported by the victim
2. Breathing changes
3. Voice changes
4. Swallowing changes
5. Symptoms
 - a) Any of these symptoms require an evaluation (near death)
 - (1) Loss of bowel or bladder
 - (2) Unconsciousness
 - (3) Petechiae
 - b) What victim advocates should check for and document
 - (1) Rips, tears or bite marks in victim's mouth
 - (2) Patches of hair loss
 - (3) Blood red eyes (hemorrhage)
 - (a) May not be evident in the first few hours
 - (4) Neck swelling
 - (5) Bruising around the neck
 - (6) Rope burns
 - (7) Red spots or scratches on the neck
 - (8) Questions about their environment
 - (a) What did you hear, see, think of
 - (i) You will get better answers
 - c) Mental health and behavioral changes
 - (1) Memory loss
 - (2) Confusion
 - d) Complications
 - (1) Pneumonitis: vomiting and taking in vomit to lungs
 - (2) Coronary artery dissection
 - (3) Mini strokes
 - (a) Vision blurriness
 - (b) Face drooping

D. Lethality

1. Can lead to death in minutes
2. 50% of DV homicides involve a strangulation incident within the year prior
3. Lifelong effects even with no visible injury
4. Symptoms can appear rapidly

5. (Glass, et al, 2008)
 - a) Prior non-fatal strangulation was associated with greater than 6x odds of becoming an attempted homicide
 - b) Victims of prior attempted strangulation are 7 times more likely of becoming a homicide victim

E. Questions and contact information

1. Barbara Bachmeier
 - a) barbara.bachmeier@gmail.com
 - b) (317) 797-8116
2. Within what time period can you observe new outward symptoms?
 - a) If victims do not show outward symptoms in 36 hours, they more than likely will not have any
3. What questions should you ask to help a victim describe the experience?
 - a) Tell me what you were feeling
 - b) Were you able to breath?
 - c) Was it hard to breath?
 - d) What did you see?
 - e) What were you thinking?
 - f) Did you lose consciousness?
 - (1) If they can't remember they probably did

III. Prosecutor's Office strangulation training

- A. For first responders, but everyone is welcome to attend
- B. November 14th from 9-2 at Wegmiller Auditorium
- C. Contact April with any questions

IV. Conference planning

- A. Please encourage submissions for RFP
- B. Next meeting
 1. Monday, October 16, 3:30-5:30 in the Hooker Room
 2. Please feel free to attend!

V. Staff update

- A. Think about changing statistics booklet to an annual book and put out a quarterly book on services available

VI. Information sharing

- A. Middle Way
 1. Volunteer training, 9-5 Bloomington Transit
- B. Protective Order Project
 1. Needs another part time employee
 - a) Tuesday-Friday, 8-4
 2. Contact abishay@co.monroe.us with any questions
- C. IU Health Riley
 1. Hosting a 40 hour sexual assault training November 13-17
- D. Indiana Chapter of Forensic Nurses
 1. Hosting a conference November 11

Next Meeting: October 20, 2017, McCloskey Room, 12-1pm

Guest Speaker: Evelyn Smith, Middle Way House

Topic: LGBTQ Interventions and Barriers